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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Michael Payne et al.

Serial No.: 09/260,250

Filed: March 2, 1999

For: HIGH EFFICIENCY DRILL PIPE

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Attorney Docket: Grant Prideco-76

Art Unit: 3627

Examiner: Vaterlaus, C.

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF
REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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Independent Claims 1, 11 and 16 are considered patentable over the prior art because of the functional relationships set forth in these claims involving the pipe outer diameter, pipe inner diameter, tool joint outer diameter, and tool joint inner diameter.

The Examiner indicates that it would not have been obvious to provide a drill pipe having the claimed ratio, since discovering the optimum value of these parameters would involve undue experimentation. Applicant first submits that the prior art does not disclose or suggest the selection of these specific parameters which render these independent claims patentable. As indicated in the Response mailed November 13, 2000, numerous other parameters of a pipe would have to be considered to optimize all pipe parameters. Moreover, the functional relationship set forth in these independent claims addresses both the structural integrity of a drill pipe connection under downhole conditions, and issues relating to the hydraulics of the drill pipe and the connection. Each of the dependent claims is either more specifically directed to the functional relationship expressed in the independent claims, or sets forth additional features of the invention which, in combination with the functional relationship expressed in the independent claims, is not suggested by the prior art.



Respectfully submitted,

Loren G. Helmreich
Reg. No. 29,389

Date: 19 Feb 01
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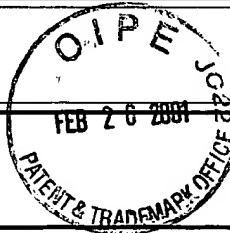
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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(General - Patent Pending)**

3627
Docket No.
Grant Prideco-76

In Re Application Of: Michael Payne et al.



Serial No.
09/260,250

Filing Date
March 2, 1999

Examiner
C. Vaterlaus

Group Art Unit
3627

Title: **HIGH EFFICIENCY DRILL PIPE**

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Transmitted herewith is: **Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance and Return Postcard**

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